**FSSAI**

In today’s sophisticated environment, people are in a continuous hassle rushing towards completing their weekly targets in haste. This monotonous routine is a great excuse to stumble their healthy diet. This gradually directs us to junks which we find appetizing. Considering the side effects this may have on personal health, the food control safety measure bridges the gap between safe and adulterated food. This is where FSSAI comes into picture.

“Food Safety and Standards Authority of India” (FSSAI) was established by Former Union Minister, Dr Anbumani Ramadoss, under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, in India. The key responsibility of FSSAI is to protect and promote public health. They also set standards, frame regulations, lay down guidelines, give scientific advice, provide technical support, maintain a detailed record of consumption, risks, etc, and above all, create awareness regarding nutrition in India.

Food is a fragile area that it may be a friend or a foe. Guaranteeing the safety of food is mandatory before launching a food business. Gaining people’s trust is more provocative and FSSAI License does it effortlessly. It ensures any food business in India must work according to The Food Safety and Standards Act. It also keeps track of such businesses and confirms smooth functioning.

There are three variants of licenses available. The desirable one is selected depending upon the volume and type of business. Small scale businesses opt for “Basic FSSAI License” where the expected yield doesn’t go beyond 12 lakh annually. The next level is “State FSSAI License” where the turnover is in the range of 12 - 20 lakh per annum. And, the final creamy layered businesses with the massive income of 20 lakh and above, go for “Central FSSAI License”.

Basic registration process is quite simple. All we have to do is submit “Form A” application to the “Food and Safety Department”. The applicants must be ready with the photo of the Food Business Operator (FBO, who carries out manufacturing, processing, packaging, storage, transportation, imports and distribution of food), and ID proof (Ration card, Voter ID, Pan Card, Passport, Driving License or others). The documents are uploaded online via “Food Safety Compliance System” (FoSCoS) that is an upgraded version of “Food Licensing and Registration System” (FLRS) launched in 2012. Within 7 days, the application maybe approved or rejected. Inspections are held and on approval, a registration certificate will be granted with the registration number and photo of the applicant that needs to be displayed at the place of work.

For those who wish to apply for State and Central licenses, they have to fill the “Form B” with a ID proof of FBO, Business constitution certificate (Partnerships), proof of business possession (Rental agreements and bills), Food safety management system plan, Food products manufactured, and Bank account details. Certain specific documents are also required separately for the State and Central licenses. The fee for basic registration is Rs.100. State license requires a fee between Rs.2500 to Rs.5000, and Central license is Rs.7500.

In a nutshell, FSSAI License verifies that food is chemical-free and safe to consume. It also protects from accusations of adulteration and use of unhygienic ingredients. It builds trust, attracts more customers and makes the company reliable. This also opens the door for investors and partners. It provides surety on the higher standards of food. It also provides legal benefits, fosters business expansion, and most importantly, keep people conscious. The FSSAI logo and registration number complies with hygiene and quality that inflates sales. So, Food registration and obtaining the license, therefore, should be taken seriously and done immediately, as possible.

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